

The Goby

San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

Volume 65 Issue 9

Established 1961 - <http://www.sdups.org>

September 2026

President's Message

Hello Everyone - What a day we had yesterday at Hospitality Point Park. Sun shining, cool breeze rolling through the bay, amazing food everywhere you turned, and conversations that reminded me exactly why this club is special. And yes — after three years of hauling that Corn Hole set around, we finally cracked the box open and played. Worth every mile. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who came out and everyone who put their hands in to make the day run smoothly. Huge thanks to **Harold Dorr** and **Greg Volger** for jumping in on setup. To **Cindy**, thank you for organizing another fantastic event. Special shoutout to **Maxine Baker**, our hostess of the day, who brought the sunshine even before the sun showed up. And thank you to **Mike** and **Francine Poirier**, **Kris Carner**, and **Terry Albert** for helping pack everything up at the end. Finally, thank you to everyone who made the time to be there. Your presence is what turned a simple picnic into a day worth remembering.

Hospitality Point Park delivered — plenty of parking, plenty of space, and clean bathrooms. Honestly, what more can a president ask for. So again, thank you all for making this an event to remember. SDUPS showed up, showed love, and made it a perfect day.

Now on to the next event. We have the Walter Munk Day. I hope everyone will come by and show your support. It should be a great day.

James Logan SDUPS, President



SDUPS online **Hybrid Zoom Meeting**, September 24 7 pm. Join us to see old friends and enjoy an U/W presentation.

* Download the Zoom app to your computer (<https://zoom.us/download>) or

* Click on the Link below

* Meeting ID number: 859 403 9607

* Meeting Password: SDUPS1961



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8594309607?pwd=UEJtUG0rczI3bEhOcW15LzlydJldz09>



Calendar/Contents

September 24 – 7 pm SDUPS Hybrid Meeting at Sumner Auditorium (Map page 10)

Sept. Competition Winners

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Holiday/Awards Party - Dec.5th.
more info to come

September Competition

"Leafy"

Paula Selby – 1st Place Advanced



Greg Volger– 2nd Place Advanced



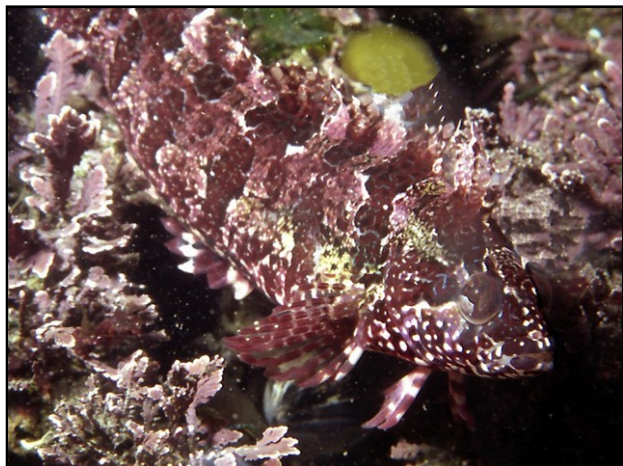
Mike Poirier – 3rd Place Advanced



Gayle Van Leer – 3rd Place Advanced



Walter Heim – 3rd Place Advanced



Dan Gehlhaar - 1st Place Amateur



September Competition

Matt Wilbur - 2nd Place Amateur



Doug Bonhaus - 3rd Place Amateur



Gia Boehrig – 1st Place Novice



Victor Ramos – 3rd Place Novice



James Logan - 3rd Place Novice



Video Competition September

1st Place - **Walter Marti**

2nd Place - **Bob Yin**

3rd Place - **Kristin Carner**

Stats for the September Competition: Leafy

Still Entries:

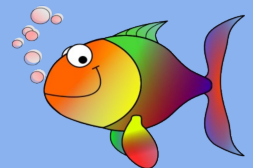
Novice = 6

Amateur = 6

Advanced = 16

Videos = 7

Votes Cast = 33



ROCIO BUNKER

Presenting
“The Magic of Capturing 360 Images”
September 24, 2026, 7:15 pm
at Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Campus



Rocio Bunker is an underwater photographer whose passion for the ocean is rooted in curiosity, patience, and a deep respect for marine life. Inspired by the advice and experience of pioneers in underwater photography, she continues to learn from those who shaped the craft while embracing new technologies and creative possibilities.

Always eager to explore the latest camera systems and equipment, Rocio enjoys testing new gear and discovering how it can enhance underwater imagery. Yet, for her, technology is only part of the story. She believes that some of the most meaningful wildlife encounters happen when a photographer has the patience to slow down, observe, and allow animals to behave naturally.

A devoted member of the local diving community, Rocio also believes in sharing knowledge and helping others experience the underwater world. As a member of the **SDUFEX Board of Directors**, she contributes to the community she loves while sharing local dive conditions, observations, and practical knowledge with fellow divers and photographers through the San Diego Dive Report Facebook Group.

Her favorite place to dive is **La Jolla Shores**, where the changing conditions and abundant marine life continually offer new opportunities to explore, learn, and create. For Rocio, underwater photography is more than capturing beautiful images, it is a way to connect with the ocean, document its changing world, and inspire others to discover and appreciate what lies beneath the surface.

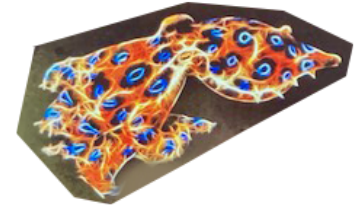
SDUPS Meeting August 2026

The August SDUPS was well attended even though the parking was really bad. Maybe as it starts to get darker the parking will be better. James opened the meeting as usual welcoming everyone and introducing the nights guests.

James presented the “Novice Photographer of the Year” 2025 plaque to **Mathais Scheer**. Congratulations. This was followed by a “Show & Tell” of a beautiful YouTube video of our undersea world.

We then took a refreshment break with snacks beautifully prepared by **Cindy Lipthay**. Cindy always provides top shelf munchies for us to enjoy.

This evening we had a Double Feature for our enjoyment. First up was SDUPS member **Dick Miller**. Dick touched upon a couple of different subjects. He talk about on online dive publica- tion called “Dive Magazine” (divemagazine.com). The magazine has tutorials for better U/W photography, Travel, Gear, and much more. Very worthwhile looking into. Dick also talked about a free video editing program call CapCut (www.capcut.com). Wait! There’s more. Dick has been playing around with a program called “Fractalius” (fractalius.com). This is a PhotoShop plugin that creates unusual, eccentric artworks in a single step. The cost is \$40. Thank you Dick for a great presentation.



Next up was SDUPS club member **Melissa Foo**. Her presentation was entitled “Blackwater Photos from Bali to Anilao”. Melissa, with the help from her eight year old daughter, gave us all the ins & outs of blackwater



diving. From how it’s done to the best techniques to get good Blackwater images. Melissa shared some of the images she has captured of the crea- tures that make the migration from the depths each night. Thank you Melissa for sharing this

unique slice of U/W photography.

Last but not least was going over the Competition winners. Those were posted on the Club’s website and last months Goby news letter.



James closed the meeting with announcements about our annual Club Picnic and the end of the year Holi- day party/awards event in December. Till next meeting, dive safe.



SDUPS Annual Picnic September 12th



Thank you to **Maxine Baker**
for photos

SCUBA History

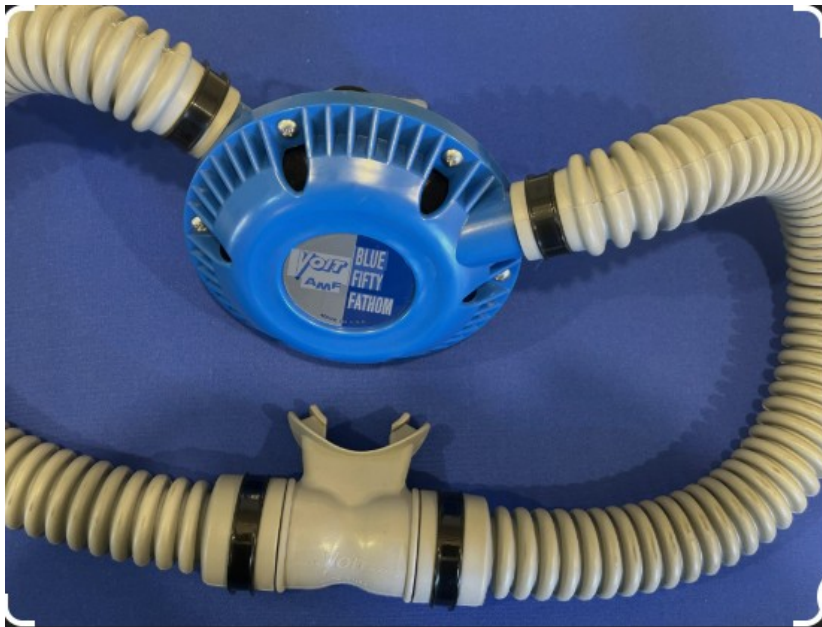
When I started diving in the early 60's, equipment wasn't as technically advanced as it is today. I started with a two hose regulator, no BCD, or tank pressure gauge. My tank incorporated a "J" valve (see explanation below). The regulator that I had at the time was the Voit Blue 50 Fathom, a two hose regulator. The single hose regulators were just becoming popular, anyway, a two hose regulator was what Mike Nelson was using. We molded our own weights back then also. Your Goby Editor - Mike Poirier

K-Valve - You'll find K-valves on most tanks—especially in the United States. They're the simplest and use yoke attachments to help create secure connections with compatible regulators. To assemble, divers simply slip the yoke regulator attachment over the K-valve and tighten a screw against the rear of the valve.



J-Valve - Although somewhat similar to K-valves, J-valves are unique for their reserve mechanism. It features a spring that closes airflow when the tank pressure drops below around 500 psi. The reserve will open when you pull the rod that's attached to the reserve lever.

J-valves are no longer recommended as they have been replaced with reliable tank pressure gauges. But when divers do use them, they make sure to disable the reserve mechanism (by turning the reserve lever downwards) before each dive to keep the valve from cutting off the air supply while there's remaining air.



Voit Blue 50 Fathom Regulator



Lead Weight Mold



2026 SDUFEX Annual Undersea Film Festival Tickets now on Sale!

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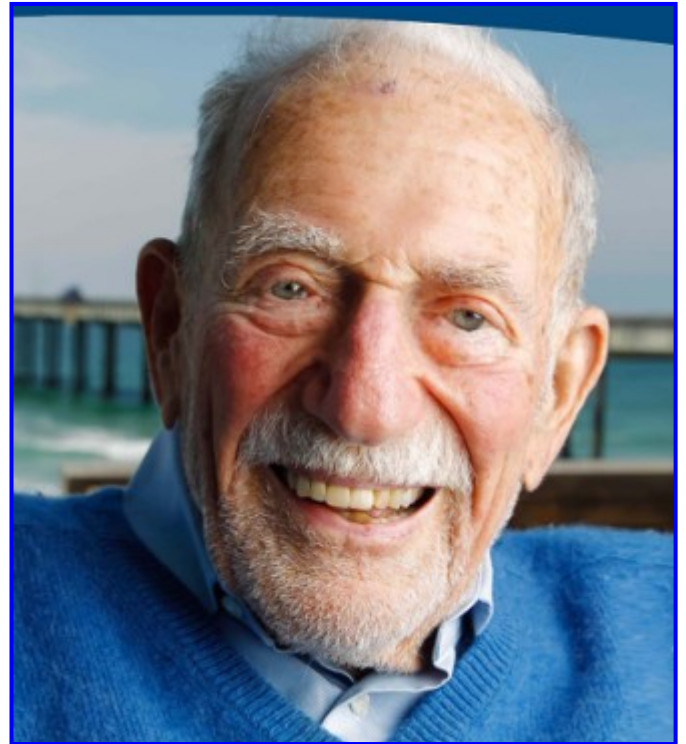


HISTORY

Based in La Jolla, California and established in 2017, The Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans was founded by Walter and Mary Munk to continue Walter's legacy of daring exploration and discovery in the field of oceanography.

Through the Foundation, Walter Munk established partnerships with leading researchers in Baja California, Mexico working to understand and protect the vulnerable *M. munkiana* species of ray — named after Walter. Walter and Mary also selected Lake Altaussee, Austria to begin comprehensive long-term studies with leading Austrian researchers about the lake's history, geology, ecology and response to climate change.

Following Walter's death in 2019 at the age of 101, the scientists and educators at WMFO continue Walter's legacy of education and outreach. Today the Walter Munk Foundation for the Ocean supports the enduring programs Walter and Mary started, with a renewed focus for developing engaging, exciting and impactful ocean science and education initiatives. Join us!



SDUPS has once again been invited to participate in **Walter Munk Day** on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026, at La Jolla Shores

We're calling for volunteers to help us:



- Welcome guests and share what SDUPS is all about
- Represent the club at our booth
- Talk with families, students, and ocean lovers
- Help inspire the next generation of underwater photographers
- Support the event team with light setup and community engagement

If you can volunteer for a shift or stay for the full event, we'd love to have you.

Every hour helps. Every smile helps. Every conversation helps.

Contact SDUPS Club President, **James Logan** or V.P, **Paula Selby** if you would like to help out.....

Sumner Auditorium Parking Map

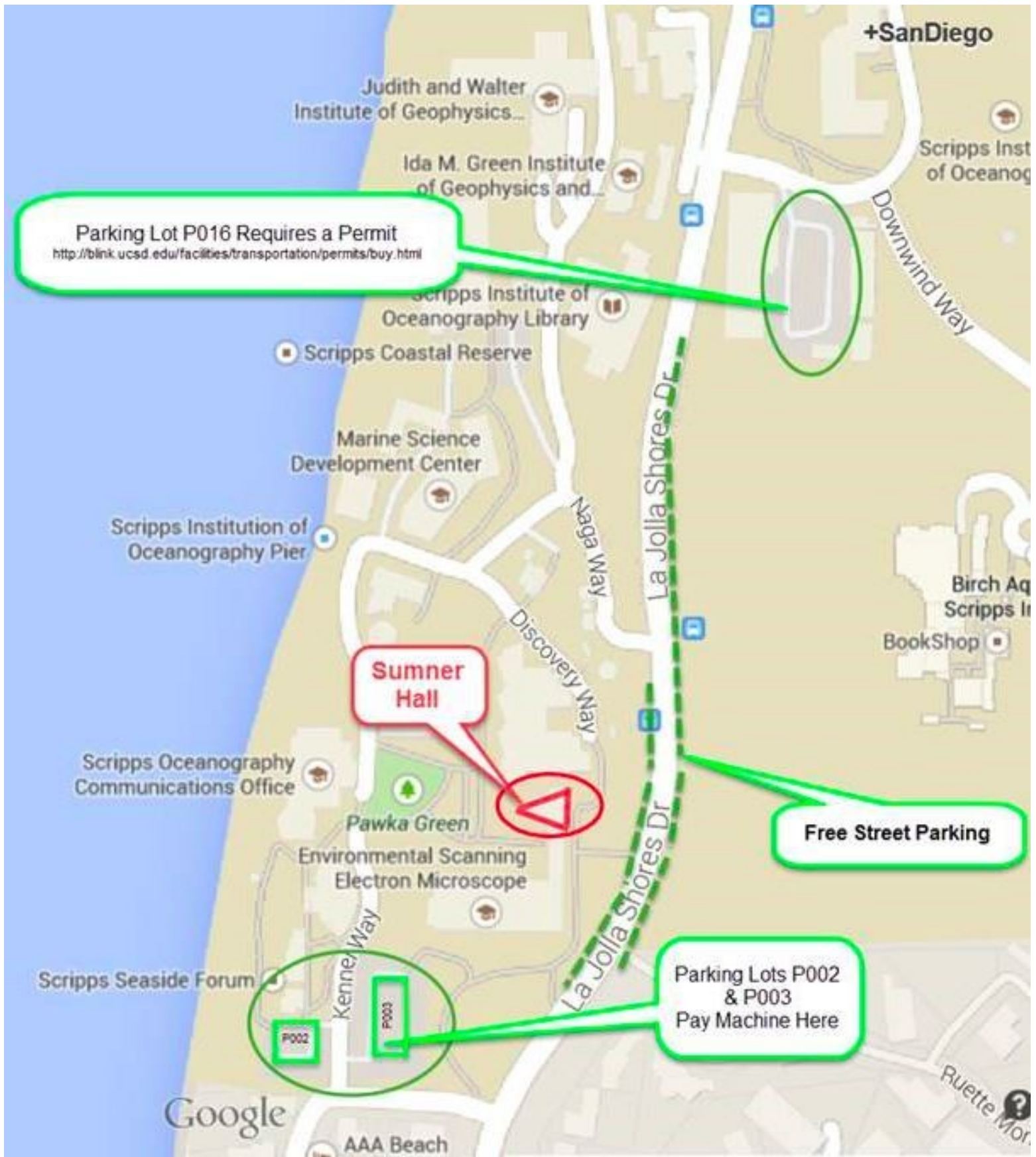
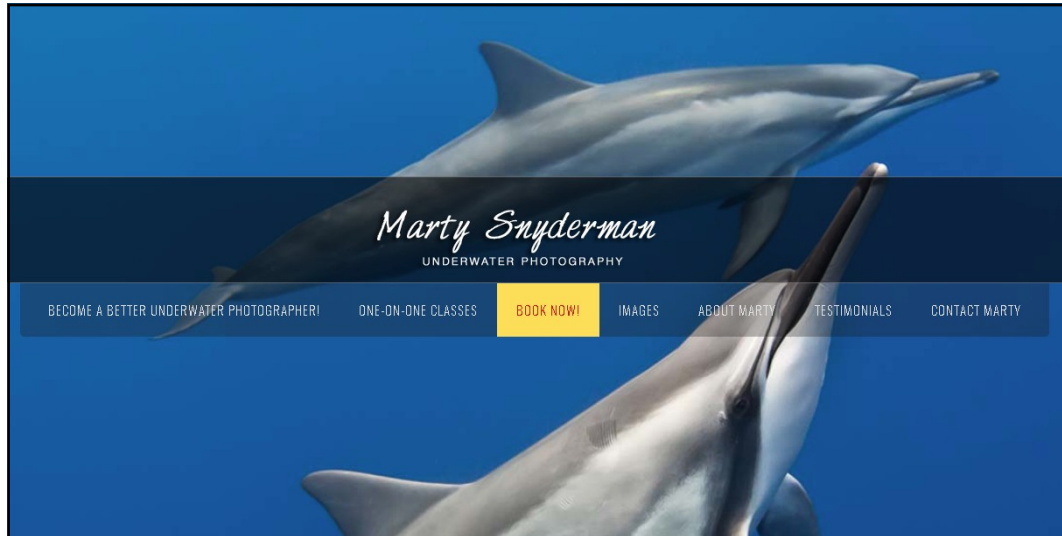


Photo Classes

One-on-one online classes in underwater photography with **Marty Snyderman** Classes are scheduled at your convenience and customized to match your goals 20% of the class fees are donated to SDUPS



BECOME A BETTER UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER! Underwater photography is a learned skill. So, you might as well learn from the best, an excellent photographer that is also an excellent teacher. Your instructor, Marty Snyderman, is that person.

When taking classes from Marty, you will receive one-on-one instruction as you review your images, discuss ways to improve your underwater photography, refine the techniques you are using, and learn new techniques, concepts, and skills that will help you create the photographs you want to make. The sessions center around techniques and are not tied to any particular make, model, or type of camera or camera system that can be used to make still photographs underwater.

Sharing a session with Marty is also a great way to re-fresh your photography skills before your next diving vacation. If you only get to dive a few times a year, during your next trip you are likely to spend a few days relearning and refreshing your skills. A session or two with Marty before your trip can turn the frustration and lost time from having to relearn into fun dives and pleasing photographs.

How It All Works The one-on-one program is completely customizable to your knowledge, skill level, and personal goals. Marty will use Zoom software to work with you. He has licensed a version of the software that enables the two of you to keep the sessions private.

During each session, Marty will share his expertise and help you gain a better understanding of various factors involved in underwater photography, and he will suggest techniques for you to employ that can help you improve your underwater photography. Each session can be up to 60 minutes long. The cost for a session is \$65.00 U.S. Any additional time that you will not be charged for is provided at Marty's discretion or through the purchase of another session.

For more information on Marty's Classes, click on the link: www.martysnyderman.com

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House of Scuba
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San Diego, California 92109

House of Scuba is offering members a 5% discount on most gear at the store and it will also be giving members a 5 fill air or 3 nitrox fill card. Air cards are not transferrable, so if members do not dive locally and therefore can't use the air card, they can still take advantage of the 5% discount on already guaranteed best prices. A list of members will be kept at the store for the air cards. www.houseofscuba.com

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.Contact info: NoSeeUmNoMore@aol.com



BACKSCATTER
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Go to: <https://www.backscatter.com/>



Competition Themes For 2026

Month	Topic Name	Description	Bonus
January	Best of 2025	Select your favorite underwater footage from 2025	Tell why you chose this entry (use note field in submission form)
February	Popping Up/Out	In honor of Groundhog Day, composition with subject(s) popping up/out of a hole or from behind a barrier	More than one subject together
March	Behavior - Different Species	Composition that shows different species interacting in same way	Shows a symbiotic relationship (a close & recurring interaction, beneficial)
April	New Beginnings	Showcase eggs, newborns, or juveniles	Vertebrate subject(s) - fish
May	Attention to Detail	Examples include tiny subjects, close-ups of large subjects or other artistic intention that emphasizes details	Repeating pattern/texture
June	Sea Slugs	Any marine gastropod without a shell - Nudibranchs, Sear Hares, Sapsuckers, Headshield Slug, etc.	Provide the common or scientific name (use note field in submission form)
July	Big, Bright & Sunny	Wide angle Composition with prominent	Ambient light only
August	Shooting the Surface	Subject is on the surface (boat, swimmer, bird, etc.) footage shot from your perspective. Over/under, silhouettes, or	Sky is visible
September	Leafy	Animals resembling vegetation (such as sponges, tunicates, anemones, pipefish, seahorses, sea dragons)	Autumn colors –strong use of red, orange, and/or yellow
October	Spooky	Open to your interpretation. Examples: “dark & stormy”, compositions or a scene that is scary for other reasons.	Shows something not alive (dead animal remains or inanimate objects such as wrecks)
November	Photoshopped	Creative editing/manipulation using digital programs such as PhotoShop. No restrictions. “Your entry must include your underwater work somewhere in the composition, Anything else used must be royalty/copyright free.	Add a title (use note field in submission form) Can be creative or humorous

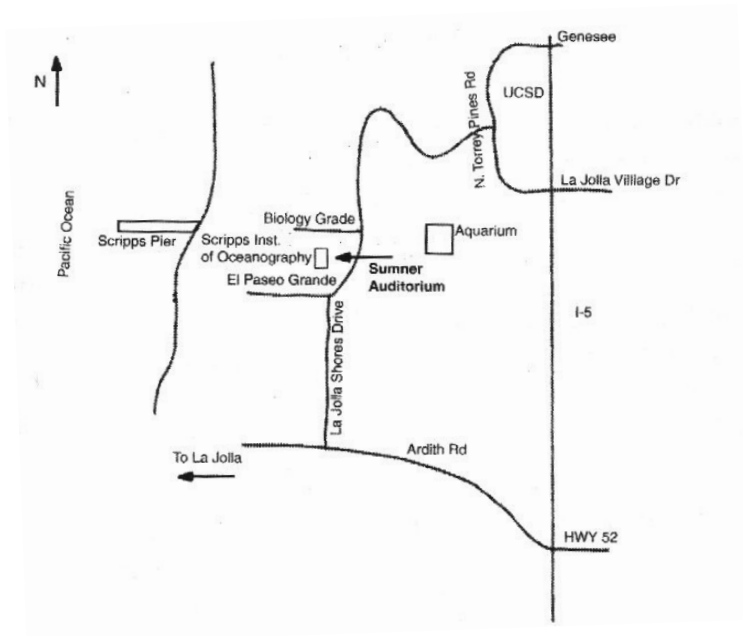
Monthly Meetings

Usually the fourth Thursday of each month
7:00pm
(No meeting in December)

Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Institute of Oceanography 8602
La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

For more information
check the SDUPS web page

<http://www.sdups.org>



2026 Board of Directors

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sdups1961@gmail.com

Vice President

Paula Selby
plselby@cox.net

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rng900@cox.net

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blueox25@gmail.com

Activities

Cindy Liphay
cindyliphay@sbcglobal.net

Board Members at Large:

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Greg Volger
Jami Feldman
Beth Besom

Appointed Positions

SIO Liaison - Charlotte Seid
Mike Poirier - Goby Editor
Dave Hinkel - Equipment Tech
Kris Carner - Web Master
Kris Carner - Social Media
Beth Beason - Computer Tech
Walter Heim - Historian



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